

REMARKS

In the outstanding office action, claims 1-20 were presented for examination. Claims 1-20 were restricted as follows: group I (claims 1-12); group II (claim 13); and group III (claims 14-20). In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects with traverse group I, which corresponds to claims 1-12. In addition, Applicant submits herewith new claims 21-26, which are intended to read of the subject matter of the elected group namely, group I.

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement. There are two criteria for a proper requirement for restriction: (1) the inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and (2) there must be a serious burden on the examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that searching the subject matter of group I, and the subject matter groups II and III, as outlined in the outstanding office action, does not place a serious burden on the Examiner. Thus, applicant requests withdrawal of the requirement for restriction with regard to groups II and III.

Moreover, it is submitted that issuing one patent on the subject matter of groups I-III as defined in the outstanding office action would be more expedient for the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the inventor and the public. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Requirement for Restriction.

If however, the restriction requirement is maintained applicants request and authorize the canceling of claims 13-20 corresponding to groups II and III in order to avoid additional claim fees as the present amendment adds new claims 21-26.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, he is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

If there are any charges due with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,
By: 
Christopher C. Boehm
Reg. No. 41,624

Date: October 29, 2003
Customer No. 23413
Telephone No. 248-524-2300